

In the long term, if there are divergences of interests between Europe and the USA, Russia and the EU may find each other useful partners in countering specific aspects of US foreign policy. And no matter how Russia-US and Russia-NATO relations develop, Russia will continue to develop close economic relations with the EU because the EU is currently Russia's biggest trade partner, accounting for 35 percent of Russia's trade turnover. EU widening could increase this number in the future to 51 percent. In 2000, Russia-EU trade increased by 42.5 % over 1999. To quote Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov commenting on the Russia-EU Summit in May 2002: "Overall, our interaction with the EU, NATO, the OSCE and other European structures, creates the necessary foundation for building up a common European territory of security and cooperation".⁵⁹

To conclude, despite US-Russian rapprochement since September 11, developing Russia-EU security relations remains a very positive option for Russia. NATO should encourage Russia-EU ties and work alongside the EU to counter the "new threats" that all of these states face.

3.4 Option #4: Create a new Security Institution

A typical argument among NATO opponents, especially since September 11, is that NATO is now outdated, that it is useless as far the "war on terrorism" is concerned, and therefore a new security structure is needed. Gennady Seleznyov, the Speaker of the Duma, for example, argues that NATO is "an archaic train from cold war days" and proposes a new structure which would include China and India.⁶⁰ This view, that NATO is inadequate for 21st century challenges, is increasingly supported by elites inside and outside Russia. After the terrorist attacks on the US, Graham Allison along with Karl Kaiser and Sergei Karaganov thus proposed a "Global Alliance for Security", starting with the Group of Eight which would act to prevent and fight terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the infrastructure of international criminal

⁵⁹ Igor Ivanov, *Kommersant Vlast*, no.22, June 11, 2002.

⁶⁰ *Itar Tass*, November 23, 2001.